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LETTER DATED 23 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 23 September 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Hyong U
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 23 September 1996

According to the inquiry by the competent organ under the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces, a unit of the Korean People's Army on 13 September left the port of Wonsan aboard a small training submarine and conducted routine training on the waters of our side on the East Sea.

However, the submarine seems to have run aground on the waters of Kangrung while drifting due to sudden engine trouble.

It seems that when the ship was stranded aground, our soldiers could not get to land and there were armed clashes because it was the area under the enemy's control.

Our small submarine had no heavy weapons but only shooting weapons for the use of training.

The south side should send back our small submarine, survivors and the dead unconditionally and immediately.